

ON THE GREEN

November 14, 2008 • VOL. 37. NO. 44

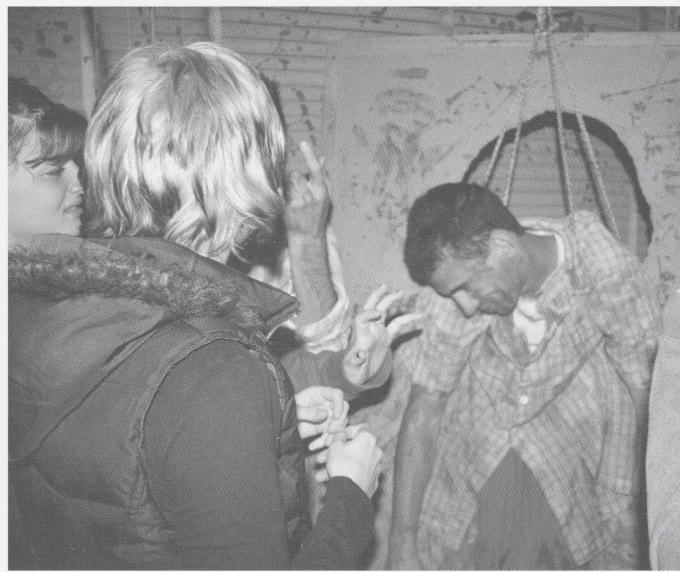
Gallaudet Fact—

Q. How did Gallaudet voters in Campus Activities' 2008 mock election compare to the country as a whole in the national election?

Answer on page 6.



"The Ghost of Mary Thornberry Haunted House" sent shivers up many a spine with a series of horrific surprises awaiting the unsuspecting visitors. The Mary Thornberry Building, which has been vacant since the Department of Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences moved to the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center, was the perfect venue for an eerie jaunt through a place populated by ghouls, demons, and assorted psychopaths. The haunted house was sponsored by Campus Activities, and proceeds benefited the Buea School for the Deaf and scholarships to enable students of color to attend Youth Leadership Camp.



IN THIS ISSUE



Roving Reporter

Robert Haughton sees the 2008 election as a historic occasion of important firsts.



BOO!

The Joker lurks in the hallway of the Jordan Student Academic Center on an especially spooky Kendall Green Halloween.



Song Hoa Choi (left) and Nicole Lubart-Fuchser at Gallaudet's FESTAC celebration, which promoted awareness of education, culture, and social equality.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

Gallaudet experiences historic 2008 election

With no incumbent on the ballot and the concept of change featuring prominently in both the Democratic and Republican campaigns, Election Day 2008 was sure to bring about a major transition.

The question was: Who would make that change?

On the evening of November 4, energetic crowds gathered all over campus and Washington, D.C., including at the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center (SLCC) to find out.

In the weeks leading up to the election, the focus at Gallaudet fell on making sure students got involved in the voting process. The Department of Government and History held a voter registration drive, and students volunteered to help each other navigate the absentee ballot system.

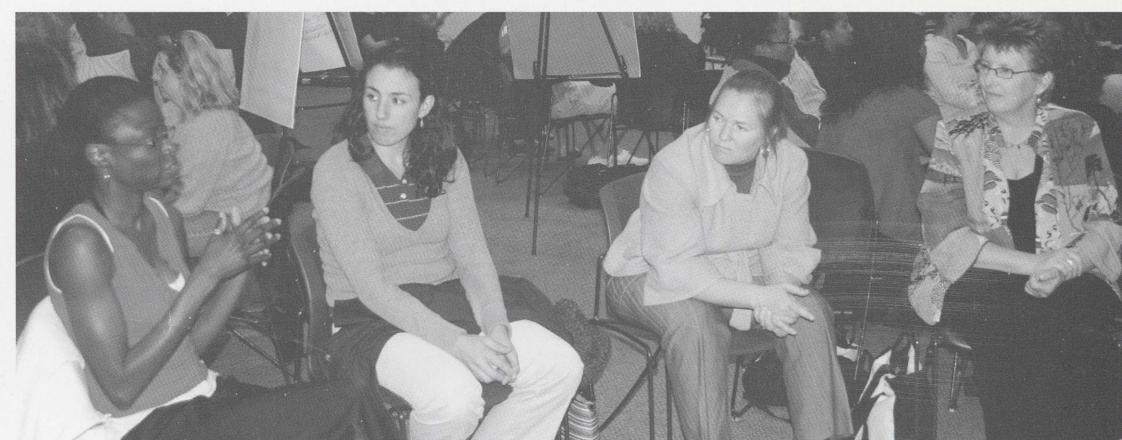


Photo: Gene Mirus

Students gather around a television in the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center as CNN calls the 2008 presidential race for Democrat Barack Obama.

continued on page 3

Campus-wide dialogue focuses on race and ethnicity



A student makes a point in an exercise during the November 3 campus-wide dialogue on race and ethnicity.

On November 3, more than 85 members of the Gallaudet community gathered to take part in an intergroup dialogue on race and ethnicity. This activity, which follows two campus-wide dialogues and a series of student dialogues, brought together a number of constituencies and examined many nuances of the issue. Undergraduate and graduate students as well as English Language Institute students participated alongside members of the faculty, staff, and administration.

Intergroup dialogue is not a debate, said Diversity Team Chair Ann Powell. Rather, it is a face-to-face encounter that strives to create a new level of understanding, ways of relating, and action between two or more social identity groups.

Guided by facilitators from the community, five dialogue groups examined stereotypes and assumptions based on race, racial and ethnic traditions, the immigrant experience, and nearly as many other topics as there were participants. The activity was part of a larger context of dialogues on campus, and an even greater plan to foster a campus climate of respect and mutual support. The previous campus-wide dialogues—one on inclusion and exclusion and another on bilingualism—also drew crowds, and were required activities for some classes. They used a similar format of facilitator-led exercises and discussion to spark conversation.

In addition, eight weeks of two-hour dialogue sessions were offered this fall for the first time to

undergraduates. The topics and identity groups for the dialogues were race, language, U.S. born/foreign born, LGBT/heterosexual, and interfaith/secular. Sixty-seven students participated in this series of conversations.

The aim of these activities, Dr. Powell said, is to improve the climate at Gallaudet by providing a place for in-depth engagement with complex topics that are often filled with conflicting ideas and traditions. "What I'm hoping is that intergroup dialogues will create an awareness that there are some issues we need to address, and that people will develop a skill for listening and respecting opinions and ideas that are different from their own," she explained.

Powell says Gallaudet is one of a "healthy handful" of colleges and universities in the country using dialogue to probe diversity issues with an eye toward improving campus climate. Evaluations of each of the campus-wide dialogues have shown positive feedback and a desire to continue discussions of difficult issues on campus.

The ongoing eight-week dialogues for students will continue next semester, Powell said, and so will the campus-wide conversations. Currently, the eight-week dialogues are housed within the Department of Communication and the campus-wide dialogues are being offered by the Diversity Team and facilitators with guidance and dialogue design from the CBG consulting team. □

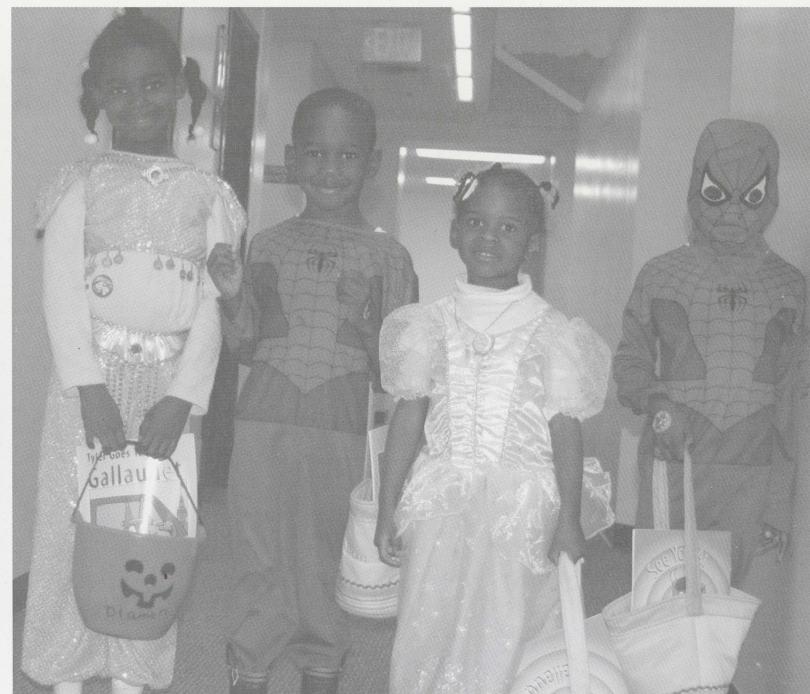
Halloween at Gallaudet!



Teresa Burke (left), instructor, and Dr. Barbara Stock, associate professor, both faculty members in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, bare their fangs at a Halloween blood drive sponsored by their department. Many eager "victims" clamored to donate their blood, Burke said, quickly filling up all available slots. They were rewarded with spooky movies and Halloween treats, along with the knowledge that they were doing a good deed.



The Joker (a.k.a. Chester Kuschmider, a member of the Class of 2009) lurks in the hallway of the Jordan Student Academic Center, no doubt looking to whip up some Halloween mischief.



Trick-or-treating siblings (from left) Diamon, Brandon, Paris, and Jordan Halliburton pause to show off their costumes during their quest to expand their Halloween candy collection.



Author and visiting faculty member Michael Chorost gives the presentation, "Cochlear Implants and the Future of the Deaf World," on October 15, providing his prediction of how new technology will influence the deaf community. Technology has already dramatically changed society, Chorost argued, so it is no surprise cochlear implants have influenced deaf culture. However, they have also opened new opportunities. And while technology has pulled people apart in recent years (Chorost used the examples of communicating via telephone and watching TV rather than socializing), the deaf community has shown continued closeness. He pointed to a presentation on Enrichment Day, where Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick, Superintendent James Tucker said that while there is a push for more oralism at his school, students, even if they have some residual hearing, still want to identify with deaf culture. Chorost has some predictions about the next steps in technology, as well as the future of Gallaudet: Both will evolve, he said, and now is the time to use that evolution to the deaf community's advantage.

Panel of experts answers questions on the economic crisis at home and abroad



Louis Schwarz (right), owner of Schwarz Financial Services, discusses his view on the country's financial situation at an October 17 panel with Stephen Hlibok, a vice president and financial advisor at the investment firm Merrill Lynch. Also part of the panel (but not pictured) were James Macfadden, a business owner and member of Gallaudet's Board of Trustees and Board of Associates, and Charles Sterling, an associate with Schwarz's company. The event was organized and sponsored by the Department of Business.

The financial crisis that jolted the national and global economy this summer and fall left many people uncertain and apprehensive. As questions and debates about a government bailout arose at Gallaudet, Dr. Thomas Baldridge, professor of business, wanted to provide more information. So this October, Baldridge and fellow Department of Business faculty members called on financial experts from the deaf community to share what they knew.

"In an environment like this, people are asking lots of questions, and as the Department of Business, we felt we should offer an event to answer those questions," said department Chair Dr. Khadijat Rashid.

On the afternoon of October 17, a panel sat before a rapt audience in the Jordan Student Academic Center. The panelists included Stephen Hlibok, a vice president and financial advisor at

the investment firm Merrill Lynch; James Macfadden, a business owner and member of Gallaudet's Board of Trustees and Board of Associates; Louis Schwarz, owner of Schwarz Financial Services; and Charles Sterling, an associate with Schwarz's company.

Each expert offered his view of the financial crisis, how it has affected their clients and their businesses, and what it might mean for individuals. Macfadden, like most small business owners, said he had taken bank loans from time to time. This was a fine system, he said, until business cash flows slowed and banks' reserves dried up.

Schwarz stepped back to show the underlying causes of the subprime mortgage crisis and the subsequent economic meltdown, using droll illustrations and captions to lighten the mood.

Hlibok offered his bottom line assessment of the bill eventually passed by Congress: "No one likes the bailout, but it's the right thing to do."

The panel was well-received, even if its messages were somewhat bleak. "Several people came up to me afterward and said they now had a clearer understanding of what's happening in the economy," Dr. Rashid said, "and a few asked for more of this sort of program in future." The Department of Business does plan to host more sessions like the panel in the future, she added.

The organizers noted that three of the panelists were Gallaudet graduates, and one currently serves on its boards. They expressed their gratitude to all of the presenters, who volunteered their time for the event. □

ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695

Published bi-weekly for the staff, teachers, and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Office of Public Relations.

Acting Director & Publications Manager

Roz Prickett

Editor & Photo Editor

Todd Byrd

Writer

Rhea Yablon Kennedy

Contributors

Enrollment Marketing

Darlene Prickett

Design/Production

Graphic Design & Production

Printing

BelJean Printing

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, hearing status, disability, covered veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, place of business or residence, pregnancy, childbirth, or any other unlawful basis.

98-342M

Got a story idea? Send it to
public.relations@gallaudet.edu.



Visitors learn about the services offered at the Hearing and Speech Center (HSC) at an October 14 open house. Among the attendees at the open house were President Davila; American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association President Arlene Pietranton; and approximately 55 speech-language pathology, audiology, and communication sciences professionals from the Clerc Center, Virginia, District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's County, Md., public schools, local military facilities, and other local organizations. The visitors came to see what the new and expanding center has to offer, taking tours of the facility and meeting HSC staff. The center, located on the second floor of the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center, houses three separate but related clinics/service areas—diagnostic audiology, communication therapy, and speech-language. It now has 14 communication rooms, four assessment booths, a preschool suite of rooms, an "Activity of Daily Living" room (fondly known as "the apartment," because it is designed and decorated like a home), an expanded walk-in clinic area, and an area dedicated specifically to cochlear implant services. Allen said the new facility will allow the center to expand services to deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals both on and off campus.

Election Day 2008

continued from page 1

When Election Day arrived, Campus Activities held a mock election complete with private voting stations and an electronic voting system to determine who Kendall Green favored for the White House. The results of that race showed strong Democratic Party support among the 245 voters, with 15 admitting they were still undecided, five voting for the Independent Party candidate, and three favoring the Green Party.

As the national election results rolled in, an energetic crowd gathered in the SLCC atrium to see who the nation's next president would be. Beginning at 7 p.m., as the first polls closed, students clad in pajamas and political T-shirts flocked to the building. The event, a "Sleep-In," was scheduled to last until 2 a.m.—or whenever Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain was declared the winner.

Students staked out spots to get a prime view of the atrium's large television screen, made themselves comfortable with pillows and blankets, and took advantage of the snacks provided by the College of Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Technologies (CLAST). The Student Body Government (SBG), the Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, and the Office of the Dean of CLAST co-sponsored the event, with Deaf Studies assistant professors Gene Mirus and Joseph Murray sharing emcee duties with SBG President Nicholas Gould.

Gould told the crowd that they could feel free to discuss the results in small groups, or come to the front in an "open mic" format. Some students took advantage of the opportunity to state their views on the candidates and the meaning of the 2008 election. One group presented an impromptu dance and ASL rap as a tribute to Obama.

Murray invited the group to imagine one of the presidential elections in which Gallaudet students participated. It was the 1880 race between James Garfield

and Winford Hancock. At that time, of course, there was no television, so a student had to slog through muddy dirt roads to the nearest newspaper office to view the results. The individual returned to campus to share the news that Garfield had won, which spread quickly. That night, the triumphant Republicans who had supported Garfield set up an 15-foot bonfire on Olmsted Green to celebrate, while the Democrats held a quiet meeting in College Hall. Kendall Green was reunited when Democrats decided to join the festivities.

Gallaudet students have continued to engage in the political process, and Election Night 2008 was no exception. Murray estimates that 200 students came to the event in the SLCC, and no doubt many more gathered in dorm rooms, houses, and apartments to watch and discuss the results.

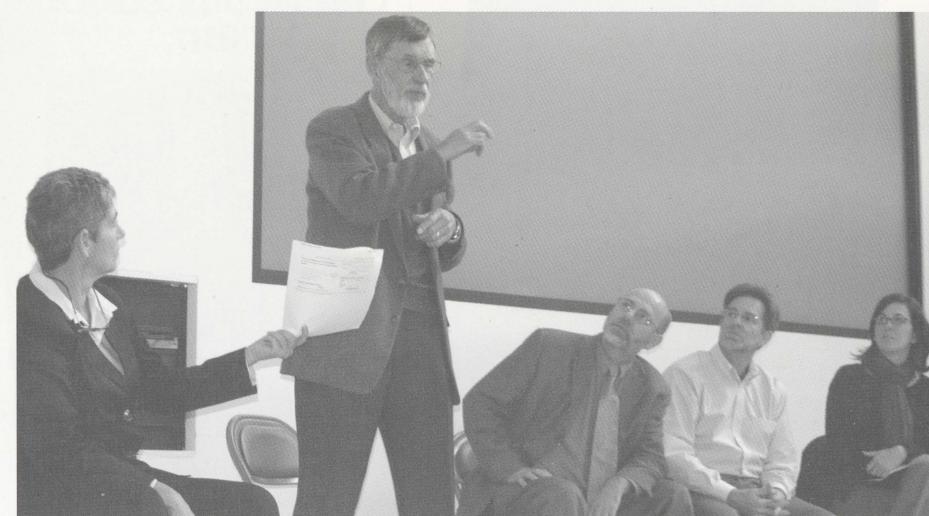
The SLCC television was tuned to CNN's coverage of the election, while a four-way video chat was projected on the wall nearby. This "Deaf View," a technology-driven twist on the popular talk show "The View," gave students a chance to see a range of perspectives on election coverage. The video panel consisted of faculty members and administrators watching the results from their homes.

The "Sleep-In" became more of a late-night celebration as the night continued. Just after 11 p.m., Barack Obama was determined the winner, and the crowd cheered as Obama, the 44th president of the United States and the first African American to be elected to the office, gave his acceptance speech.

"We were really pleased to see a huge turn-out among students," Dr. Mirus said of the event. "There was so much enthusiasm."

Dr. Murray also sensed the excitement, and predicted that the feeling would last. "After Obama was elected, and before he gave his talk, a CNN commentator said we would always remember where we were when we heard the news," Murray said. "For those of us at the SLCC, we were with friends, united as a community in this historic moment." □

Forum examines linguistic human rights and the state of sign language around the world



Moderator Dr. MJ Bienvenu (left) facilitates a panel discussion on sign languages around the world at the October 24 Forum on Linguistic Human Rights and the Future of Sign Languages with (from second left) Dr. Yerker Andersson, who discussed Europe; Gary Malkowski, who represented Canada; Dr. Mike Kemp, who described his findings in Vietnam and Central America; and Julie Hochgesang, who has worked with the signing deaf population in Kenya.

On October 24, Gallaudet presented a one-day Forum on Linguistic Human Rights and the Future of Sign Languages. This event, hosted by the Office of the Provost and the Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, convened leading scholars to discuss critical issues involving the future vitality of sign languages, linguistic diversity, and human rights of deaf people. It also showcased the fruits of the 80-hour Why Sign? video contest held at Gallaudet.

All in the community were invited to attend the free event. Dr. Dirksen Bauman started off the day with an introduction, stating troubling observations echoed by the forum's guest speakers. "In technologically advanced countries like Denmark and Australia, sign languages are increasingly in danger," Bauman said. He presented evidence that deaf children's access to sign language is dwindling.

Subsequent presentations included Tove Skutnabb-Kangas' "Linguistic Human Rights of the Deaf - Why, When, and What - And Decided by Whom? The Little Matter of Crimes Against Humanity." A professor emeritus from the University of Roskilde in Denmark and internationally recognized leader in Linguistic Human Rights, Dr. Skutnabb-Kangas framed the issue of early exposure to bilingual education for deaf children as a human right, and should be enforced as such.

This presentation was followed by "Language Loss and Revitalization: Ten Things We Know" by Dr. Kendall King of the University of Minnesota. Dr. King discussed her work in the revitalization of the Quechua language in South America, raising critical strategies for the Deaf community to consider as it confronts its own language revitalization projects.

Gallaudet University's own Dr. Ben Bahan, Chair of the ASL and Deaf Studies department gave the final keynote address, Sign Languish or Flourish? Dr. Bahan raised the issue that sign languages will be resilient amidst external pressures, given that they are rooted in the human proclivity to gesture. This basic aspect of the human character will ensure the survival of sign

languages.

These three presentations were followed by "Sign Languages Around The World," a panel discussion moderated by American Sign Language and Deaf Studies professor MJ Bienvenu, brought together a well-traveled group of linguists. Dr. Yerker Andersson discussed Europe; Gary Malkowski represented Canada; Dr. Mike Kemp described his findings in Vietnam and Central America; and Julie Hochgesang shared her analysis after working with the signing deaf population in Kenya.

The day concluded with a showing of 10 student-made films competing for three prizes in the Why Sign? video contest. A panel of Gallaudet judges selected the animated film "Birds of a Feather" by student filmmaker Rebecca Freund as the first-place winner, followed closely by a live action piece by Jay Kowalczyk and Bradley Gant. Jonathan Lewis, Lawrence Lynch, and Elizabeth Steyer took third place for their piece that combined live action and special effects.

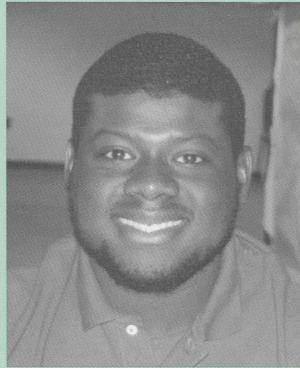
The forum drew a large group of students, scholars, faculty, and staff to the visu-centric James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center atrium. Many left discussing what they had seen, and asking where they could take a closer look at the presentations. □



Dr. Tove Skutnabb-Kangas of the University of Roskilde in Denmark presents "Linguistic Human Rights of the Deaf—Why, When, and What—And Decided by Whom? The Little Matter of Crimes Against Humanity." (Also pictured is GIS interpreter Stephanie Deja.)

Roving Reporter

Why was the 2008 U.S. presidential election important?



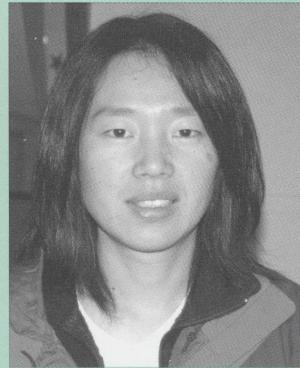
It would be a historic election no matter what happened. Obama would be the first black president, and on the McCain ticket, Palin would be the first female vice president.

Robert Haughton
undergraduate



The last four years have been really hard with the downturn in the economy. It's time for a change to help boost the economy back to where it needs to be.

Jeb Barber
NCAA compliance director,
Athletics



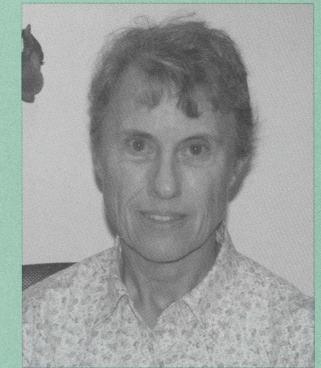
We need change. People have been so frustrated with Bush. We need a new America. I'm an international student, so I can't vote, but I wish I could!

Chie Iwasaki
undergraduate



I would like the soldiers to come home. I want the war to end. And I want to see the economy get better. Whoever becomes president needs to make the economy better than it is now.

Michael Gray,
custodian/floor mainte-
nance, Custodial Services



I've worked abroad on many projects and I come from an immigrant family, so I'm aware of the bad reputation that America currently has abroad. I passionately hope that the new president can restore the respect that America has enjoyed in the world in years past.

Dr. Corine Bickley, research scientist, VL2 and Hearing, Speech, and Language Sciences

Campus Calendar

November

- 14—Undergraduate Open House, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., JSAC Multipurpose Room; Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212; Soda with President Davila for students, 3-4 p.m., SLCC atrium; *FENCES* opening night, 8 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 15—*FENCES*, 2 and 8 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 16—*FENCES*, 2 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 17—Workshop: Where is it? Finding books in Gallaudet University Library, 4-5 p.m., Library, Rm. 1225
- 19—Free HIV testing, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., JSAC conference room; Workshop: Where is it? Finding books in Gallaudet University Library, 4-5 p.m., Library, Rm. 1225
- 20—Learn about ADHD, 6-7 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010; Diversity Dance Showcase, 7 p.m., SLCC atrium; "Thursday Night Live" with Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111; Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship Life Group, 7:30, SLCC Rm. 1304
- 21—Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212; *FENCES*, 8 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 22—Memorial service for Lisa McLean, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Chapel Hall; *FENCES*, 2 and 8 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 23—*FENCES*, 2 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 26—Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes held
- 27-28—Thanksgiving Holiday, University closed

December

- 1—PFLAG monthly meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB Rm. S135
- 3—Free HIV testing, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., JSAC conference room
- 4—Signing Gospel Winter Concert 2008, 7-9 p.m., Foster Auditorium; "Thursday Night Live" with Campus Crusade for Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111; Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship Life Group, 7:30, SLCC Rm. 1304
- 5—End of fall semester; Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., JSAC Multipurpose Room, hallway, and Flex A/B

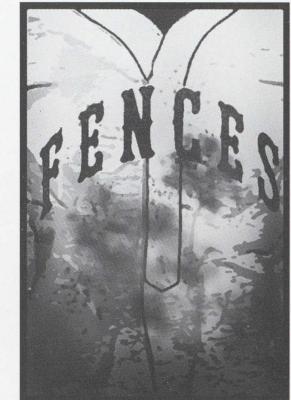
FENCES now showing

The Theatre Arts Department presents playwright August Wilson's *Fences*, a bittersweet tale of family love, baseball, and fate set in 1957 Pittsburgh during the struggle for civil rights in America. This is the first known deaf production of any of Wilson's plays; it is directed by Ethan Sinnott, assistant professor in the department.

Fences tells the story of the proud Troy Maxson, a former Negro Leagues baseball star, who toils in obscurity as a garbage collector, struggling mightily to hold onto his dignity despite the demons in his soul. It is a losing battle which estranges him from those who love him.

Performances are November 13 to 16 and 20 to 23 in the Gilbert C. Eastman Studio Theatre, located in the Elstad Annex. Seating in the Eastman Studio Theatre is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Full-time Gallaudet students who



have paid the unit fee receive one free ticket with ID. Tickets prices for non-Gallaudet students with ID are \$10 online and \$12 at the Box Office window or at the door; and the fee for adults is \$15 online and \$20 at the Box Office window or at the door.

For more information or tickets, call x5500 (voice)/x5502 (TTY); email theatre.tickets@gallaudet.edu; or go to the Theatre Arts website: depts.gallaudet.edu/theatre. □

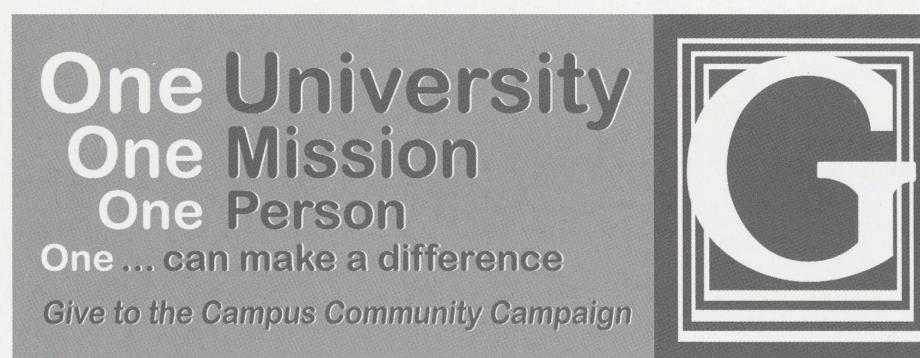


Attorney and alumnus Jeff Rosen discusses the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at an October 28 presentation on campus. Rosen was invited by the Gallaudet University International Development Association to share the significant impact the U.S. could have on

the lives of people with disabilities by signing and ratifying the treaty. Ratifying would allow the U.S. to offer its expertise in disability legislation, he said, as well as back up its rhetoric about disability rights. "The U.S. has lost a great deal of respect in the world because we do not practice what we preach," said Rosen. His visit was timely, coming just days before Americans voted for president and representatives in the House and Senate. The U.S. president and representatives in Congress will play a role in ratifying this convention, he explained, and stressed that policy-making, not posturing, is the most effective way to work for equal rights.

How to...

Give to the 2008 Campus Community Campaign



By Patricia Bowman, Assistant Director for Annual Giving

Last year, 33 percent of faculty, staff, and teachers supported Gallaudet by making a gift to the Campus Community Campaign (CCC). Since this year's October 1 kick-off, members of the community are again showing their support. If you have already given, thank you!

If you have not yet given, consider this year's theme: "One University, One Mission, One Person—One...can make a difference." No matter how you channel your CCC gift, it is sure to create more opportunities for current and future students at the University and the Clerc Center.

Support from the campus community sends a strong message that we believe in Gallaudet. It not only tells our students that we are behind them, but it also gives us the opportunity to boast about our commitment to other constituencies.

You can give in a number of different ways. With just a few simple decisions, you can make a gift that suits you, your financial situation, and your philanthropic goals.

First, choose a method of giving. The Office of Development accepts contributions by personal check, credit card, and payroll deduction. You can also make a pledge and pay in installments throughout the year.

You can make your gift securely online by going to support.gallaudet.edu and clicking on "Give Now!" You can also stop by the Office of Development on the second floor of EMG to make your gift in person, or send your gift to Development through campus mail.

The second decision is how much to give. In trying economic times, not everyone will be able to make a large gift, but gifts of all sizes are welcome and can be made in manageable increments. You can satisfy a pledge of \$1,000, which places you in the prestigious President's Circle, with four payments of \$250 each. If payroll deduction is your style, just \$5 per pay period amounts to \$130 over the course of the year. Giving \$10 per pay period will add up to \$260. A one-time donation of \$10 or \$20 is also a great help.

The third choice is where to focus your support. At support.gallaudet.edu, you can choose from specific scholarships, academic programs, institutional funding priorities, research initiatives, or other specific areas. You can also choose to make a general, unrestricted gift; your contribution will be designated to the area of greatest need for the University.

On behalf of our students, I ask you to consider a gift to Gallaudet. While last year's participation rate of almost one in three Gallaudet employees with a fundraising total of \$140,819 is impressive, we can easily surpass those numbers. One person really can make a difference to our University!

For more information about the CCC and giving options, contact me at patricia.bowman@gallaudet.edu. □



President Davila congratulated scholarship recipients and thanked the Delta Zeta Sorority and their benefactors at an October 21 luncheon. Standing with Dr. Davila are (from left): scholarship recipients Gabrielle Petroff and Amanda Sortwell, Delta Zeta Foundation President Ruth Patterson, Delta Zeta Gallaudet Chairperson Joan Lowry, and scholarship recipients Erin Bailey, Cloe Canela, and Elizabeth Martinez. During the luncheon, which was held at B. Smith's restaurant in Union Station, Patterson presented Davila with a \$5,000 check to support the Gallaudet Dance Company. Photo: Patricia Bowman

News Roundup

City Year volunteers take on 'Extreme Makeover'-style projects as community service at KDES and MSSD



Photo: Timothy Worthy/ lake

MSSD students teach a City Year volunteer (third from right) some ASL during a banner-making project.

Have you ever watched TV programs like "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and seen how a team of people can transform a house in a very short amount of time? The Clerc Center community had the opportunity to experience such a transformation with the help of City Year, a youth service corps.

City Year attracts young people ages 17 to 24 who give a year of service to their local communities. On October 25, as part of USA WEEKEND's annual "Make a Difference Day," volunteers from City Year, Gonzaga High School of Washington, D.C., and Gallaudet University worked side-by-side with Clerc Center teachers, staff, families, and students to tackle over 35 projects at KDES and MSSD.

A few days ahead of the event, City Year leaders came to check out the schools to look over the project spaces, take measurements, and figure out what tools they needed. On Saturday, they arrived with buckets of paint as well as supplies for wood working, gardening, theater set building, and cleaning. City Year volunteers, wearing their trademark bright red jackets, could be seen around the schools leading the project teams. They inspired the other volunteers with their energy and great ideas.

By the end of the day there were enough transformations to make everyone proud—eye-popping new paint schemes in the girls' dorms; inspirational messages on walls; cool math, science, and geographical murals painted in hall-

ways and on exterior walls; freshened up landscapes; theater sets for MSSD's fall play; greenhouses repaired; and lots of good old-fashioned "spring cleaning"—among other projects.

For many of the City Year volunteers, their day at Gallaudet was their first time working alongside deaf and hard of hearing people and experiencing deaf culture. During the morning kickoff, volunteers were given a crash course in deaf awareness, including a demonstration of "survival signs."

"Make a Difference Day 2008 was the first time City Year specifically partnered with the deaf community to complete a service project," said Jeff Franco, executive director of City Year in Washington, D.C. "It was such a wonderful day—full of energy, excitement, and collaboration. We look forward to partnering again in the future!"

The enthusiasm ignited on "Make a Difference Day" has fired up volunteers to come back and complete tasks that could not be finished due to rainy weather and time constraints. Some of the younger student volunteers are considering joining the junior division of City Year, called City Heroes, and becoming community volunteers themselves.

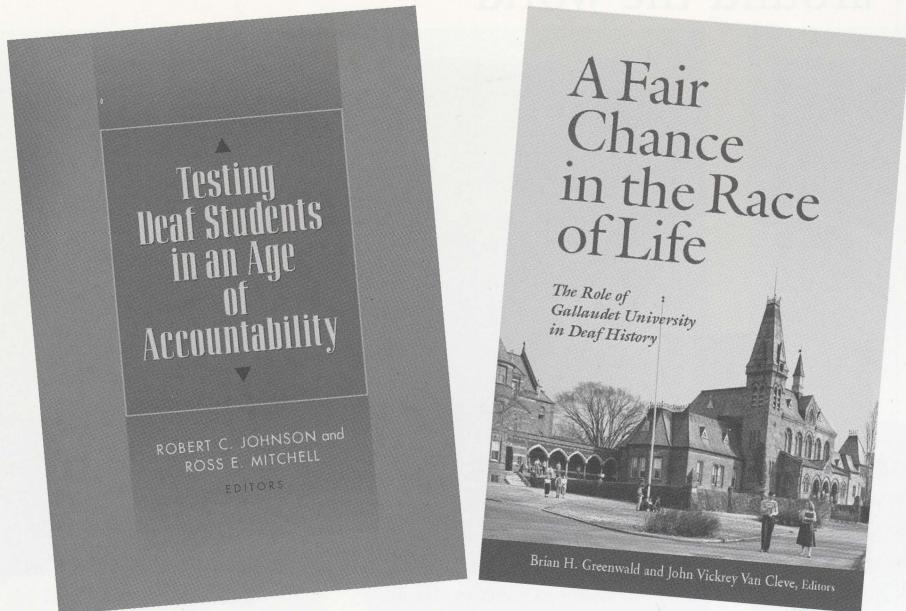
During the final closing celebration in MSSD's Theatre Malz, KDES Principal Shaitasha Winston expressed great appreciation for all of the volunteers' work: "This may have been only one day for you, but your work here will have a long-term effect." □

Among Ourselves

Gallaudet trustee and award-winning actress Marlee Matlin, and The Gallaudet Dance Company and other deaf professional dancers around the country were featured in the October issue of *Dance Magazine* in an article entitled "To Their Own Music. Dancers who are deaf --- and defying the odds." Also, the Gallaudet Dance Company's November 6 performance for the Federal Election Commissions in Washington, D.C., was filmed by "Voice of America International TV" for a piece entitled "Day in the Life of a Gallaudet Dancer," which will be shown in 45 countries. In other news, the Dance Company received \$5,000 on October 21 from the National Delta Zeta Foundation. (See photo, this page)

Dr. MJ Bienvenu, ASL and Deaf Studies professor, kicked off the Campus Week of Dialogue at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on October 27. Her address to the community, "Deaf Culture and Deafhood," began a week of conversations about Deaf Culture and audism with a look at evolving interactions around community identity within Deaf Culture.

Noted scholarly publications have Gallaudet connection



These two new titles reflect an ongoing trend by the Gallaudet University Press to publish works by individuals with close ties to the Gallaudet community.

The Gallaudet University Press announces that it has just published *Testing Deaf Students in an Age of Accountability*, edited by Robert C. Johnson and Dr. Ross Mitchell.

Significant for its detailed examination of the impact of the No Child Left Behind law and high stakes testing on deaf students, this collection also marks the latest Press publication with close ties to the Gallaudet community. Johnson is a retired research editor in the Gallaudet Research Institute, which was where Mitchell also worked before he assumed his current post at the University of Redlands, Calif. Next month, the GUPress will release *A Fair Chance in the Race of Life: The Role of Gallaudet University in Deaf History*, edited by Dr. Brian Greenwald, associate professor of history, and Dr. John Van Cleve, professor emeritus.

"The pattern is obvious and deliberate," said Ivey Wallace, assistant director of the GUPress in charge of editorial operations. "We stay in close contact with the faculty and staff at Gallaudet to have the first chance to consider their work for publication. The fact that so many University community members have written, edited, or contributed chapters to our books testifies to the high quality and volume of excellent academic research being conducted at Gallaudet. In turn, their work has allowed us to become the preeminent publisher of scholarly and general interest books about deaf people and their history, language, and culture." Wallace added that in the past year, the Press published 10 titles that featured University faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Its two journals, *Sign Language Studies* and *American Annals of the Deaf*, included 10 contributors from the University community, as well.

A Fair Chance in the Race of Life confirms Wallace's statement, with contribu-

tions by Dr. Benjamin Bahan, professor of deaf studies at Gallaudet; Hansel Bauman, a noted San Francisco, Calif., architect who co-designed the University's new James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center; David de Lorenzo, a former Gallaudet University archivist who is now associate director and head of technical services for The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley; Dr. I. King Jordan, former University president and professor of psychology; Dr. Christopher Krentz, formerly of the University's Office of Development and at present assistant professor of English and American Sign Language and director of the American Sign Language Program at the University of Virginia; Michael Olson, a graduate of Gallaudet and archives technician at the Gallaudet Library; Lindsay Parker, who received her master's degree from Gallaudet and is a doctoral candidate at the Ohio State University, Columbus; plus the two aforementioned editors, Greenwald and Van Cleve.

Testing Deaf Students in an Age of Accountability contains chapters by Dr. Joseph Innes, dean of the College of Professional Studies and Outreach, and Dr. Edward Bosso, dean of the Clerc Center.

When asked how many Gallaudet members in all have contributed to GUPress publications, Wallace said, "Answering that question could take a good deal of research itself. The Press has been publishing Gallaudet authors and contributors since its inception 28 years ago. It's certainly a practice and tradition of which we are proud, and one we plan to continue."

(Note: *Testing Deaf Students*, *A Fair Chance in the Race of Life*, and other Gallaudet University Press books are available at the Bison Shop and online at gupress.gallaudet.edu.) □



Students (from left) Natsumi Kanno, Noppawan Thamsiriboon, Song Hoa Choi, and Nicole Lubart-Fuchser, representing Japan, Thailand, Korea, and Switzerland, respectively, exemplify the many cultures represented at FESTAC "ways of being, ways of knowing."



The all-women's group Batala performs in the Marketplace.

Photos: Concetta Pucci

Gallaudet's FESTAC promotes awareness of education, culture, and social equality

By James Harrison

More than 300 people attended the November 1 Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) on Kendall Green, sponsored by Gallaudet's Social Work Department along with Friends of Buea School for the Deaf, Inc.

The theme for the event, "ways of being, ways of knowing" which was borrowed from a similarly named festival that took place in Nigeria in 1977, guided FESTAC's purpose of spreading awareness about education, culture, and social equality as it relates to deaf and hearing people's daily interactions, contributions, and investments. It also served as a networking opportunity for local and international organizations to enhance their knowledge concerning multiculturalism, multilingualism, and social action. The event also raised funds for school social work graduate student James Harrison's upcoming four-month internship at the Buea School for the Deaf, Cameroon. Harrison also served as FESTAC's coordinator.

FESTAC began with a morning ceremony led by Mark Amissah, presidential leadership fellow in the Office of the President, who reflected on the values, struggles, victories, and vision of Africa's descendants, with an application to deaf ways of being. Festival goers were then invited to join West African dance classes, and salsa dance workshops, and interact with both deaf and hearing exhibitors identified as stakeholders in the future of deaf education.

The all-day event included performances by Gallaudet students, local troupes, and internationally renowned ensembles. Among those performing were also group DC Casineros; a host of capoeiristas—practitioners of capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian art form that ritualizes movement from martial arts, games, and dance—who were gathered by undergraduate student John "JJ" Bechold; black deaf cast members of the Theatre Arts production FENCES; the Wild Zappers, led by Fred Beam; and a finale by the women's samba group, Batala.

Those not familiar with American

Sign Language (ASL) had an opportunity to learn about the language by attending films, including one produced by recent ASL and Deaf Studies graduate Ryan Commerson, named *Media, Power, & Ideology: Re-Defining D-E-A-F*. Other films shown during the festival were *Audism Unveiled* and *Second Chance*, the latter about the realities of a deaf Latina adolescent growing up with a hearing family. Televisions and projectors were positioned throughout the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center as a means to expose passers-by to deaf history and the basics of ASL, and they were invited to try their hand at deaf black history trivia. For participants who had not yet been exposed to sign languages from other countries, the International Extravaganza: A World of Signs presented them with British, Mongolian, Japanese, Chinese, Cameroonian, Swiss, Korean, Italian, and other signed languages.

A silent auction of art created by local artists was held in front of Gallaudet's Campus Activities Office. The theme of their work helped promote an understanding of the current political, cultural and creative climate. For example, photos taken by Gallaudet alumna Lena Dunning gave participants a glimpse into the lives of deaf Cameroonian and posters by various artists provoked questions from the 1970s about the direction of blacks in America, which are still relevant today.

The supporters and volunteers of FESTAC dedicated the event to Gallaudet alumnus Andrew Foster, who is known as the father of deaf education in Africa; Blaise Wafo Ndetatsin, who had the vision of initiating linguistically accessible environments for deaf and hearing persons through interpreting; and Samuel Franklin, who inspired audiences with his wit, spiritual presence, and dignity. Their visions, commitments, and dedication have contributed profoundly to our communities, both deaf and hearing. It is with these elements that social responsibility can be achieved in deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing worlds. □

Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: The mock election at Gallaudet and the national election had a few distinct differences. According to MSNBC.com, about 120 million voters cast a vote for either Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain, 52 percent for Obama and 46 percent for McCain. Mock election coordinator Seth Gore reported that 232 community members voted for the two major candidates at Gallaudet. The University had a much larger majority of 80 percent for Obama and 11 percent for McCain. In addition, 6 percent of Gallaudet's voters were undecided, 1 percent voted for the Green Party, and 2 percent supported the Independent Party.